SPRING 2000

Louisiana
COAST LINES

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NOAA Weather Satellite Heads for the Clouds

Hurricane Season Starts June 1

2000 Atlantic Hurricane Names

Alberto
Beryl
Chris
Debby
Ernesto
Florence
Gordon
Helene
Isaac
Joyce
Keith
Leslie
Michael
Nadine
Oscar
Patty
Rafael
Sandy
Tony
Valerie
William

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's GOES-L weather satellite headed for orbit 22,300 miles above Earth from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

The satellite, designed to monitor hurricanes, severe thunderstorms, flash floods and volcanoes, will give meteorologists the means to provide timely weather forecasts across the United States.

Courtesy NASA

The GOES-L weather satellite provides "real-time" weather imagery and atmospheric sounding information. Pictured above is the Atlas II/Centaur.

"GOES satellites are a mainstay of weather forecasting in the United States," said Gerry Dittberner, GOES program manager at NOAA. "They are the backbone of short-term forecasting, or 'nowcasting.' GOES images of clouds are well-known to all Americans. The images can be seen on television weather broadcasts every day."

GOES-L, which will be renamed GOES-11 once it reaches orbit, is slated to track storms in July, a month after hurricane season begins.

The U.S. already operates three geostationary satellites. GOES-10, launched in 1997, is positioned over the Pacific Ocean, overseeing the West Coast. GOES-8, launched in April 1994, is perched over the Atlantic Ocean, surveying the East Coast. GOES-9 is not used for sophisticated weather tracking.

The $200 million GOES-L will likely replace GOES-8, which serves as the nation's most important early-warning system for hurricanes forming off Africa's western coast.

Real-time weather data gathered by GOES satellites, supplemented by information from Doppler radar, airplanes and ocean buoys, provides

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the most sophisticated severe-weather warnings to forecasters. In 1999, NOAA's National Weather Service provided meteorologists with tornado warnings within 11.6 minutes of spotting the twisters. The average lead time for flash floods was 41 minutes.

"NASA is excited about providing another fine tool for the National Weather Service to use for weather operations," said Martin Davis, GOES program manager at NASA's Gadded Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

Meteorologists predict a dangerous hurricane season in 2000, which begins June 1. Forecaster William Gray of Colorado State University expects 11 named storms, seven of which could become hurricanes.

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Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Workshop

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana will host a **Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Workshop in the Barataria Basin at Westwego on Saturday, June 3, 2000**. Participants will explore beautiful freshwater swamps and floating marshes in the Barataria Basin while learning what is being done to enhance and protect wetlands. They will go by boat and bus to see a number of coastal restoration projects in the Davis Pond-Lake Cataouatche area. The workshop is open to all interested adults.

Registration is required and space is limited to 45 participants, so early registration is recommended. The $50 fee of includes a bus and boat tour, speaker presentations, afternoon reception and discussion, coffee, lunch and snacks. Field trips depend on weather and boat availability. Substitutions will be made in case of inclement weather. The workshop is supported by the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program and the Jefferson Parish Environmental Department. The workshop is headquartered at City Hall Council Chambers in Westwego.

Participants will travel by bus to the Mississippi River levee and view the Davis Pond freshwater diversion structure, currently under construction. They will see how Davis Pond will bring fresh water and nutrients into the Barataria estuary to enhance wetlands and fish and wildlife habitat. Then they will go by boat to Lake Cataouatche to view marshes that will receive river water when the Davis Pond structure is operating. Participants learn how water quality and fisheries are being monitored before Davis Pond is completed. Viewing downtown New Orleans from the lake, they will see how marshes and levees are essential for storm protection. They will visit fishing camps and see how wave-dampening Christmas tree fences provide shoreline protection. After the boat tour, participants will return to Westwego for a reception and mid-afternoon discussion.

Local residents and field trip leaders will address the future of Barataria's wetlands, the richness of its culture and local resources, strategies for wetland restoration, fisheries, flood protection, and water quality.

For more information or to obtain a workshop brochure, call the Coalition toll free at 1-888-LA COAST (1-888-522-6278).

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Local Coastal Programs 2000
Protecting Coastal Waters

LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAMS

APPROVED
Calcasieu
Cameron
Jefferson
Lafourche
Orleans
St. Bernard
St. James
St. Tammany

PENDING
Plaquemines
St. Charles
Terrebonne

The Interagency Affairs section of the Coastal Management Division held its second annual symposium on April 5 - 6 in Lafayette, Louisiana. Approximately 120 people, including federal and state natural resource agency representatives, parish officials, and representatives from nonprofit organizations attended the two-day symposium. Over 30 natural resource professionals gathered in Lafayette to give presentations and share their nonpoint pollution control and prevention strategies.

The symposium was part of the enhancement and assistance initiative for Louisiana's coastal parishes. The symposium presented a forum for decision makers and local land use planners to learn about successful programs that state, federal, and local agencies have implemented to address nonpoint source pollution. Many people are unaware however that a significant amount of the water pollution in coastal waterways is a result of nonpoint source pollution.

The symposium began with Dr. Terry Howey, Coastal Management Division's Administrator and Gregory DuCote, Interagency Affairs Program Manager welcoming the symposium attendees. The first session of the symposium provided an overview of state and federal efforts to control nonpoint pollution. Josh Lott, a Coastal Management Specialist from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) discussed NOAA's programs and efforts to fund state Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control programs. NOAA plans to dedicate $10.5 million in FY 2001 to enable coastal states to develop programs and enhance existing programs. Dugan Sabins and Jan Boydstun from DEQ's nonpoint section provided information regarding the Total Maximum Daily Load requirements and the status of the statewide Clean Water Act, Section 319 nonpoint program. DuCote closed the session with the status of the Coastal Nonpoint Program.

The second session of the day featured Don Fedducia, LDAF, and Clyde Todd, LA Forestry Association, giving an overview of the forestry industry's efforts to implement best management practices during logging and forestry operations. The forestry industry has been proactive in developing the Master Logger Program which requires all loggers to attend classes and learn about methods to harvest trees with the least possible degradation of water quality.

The next session was devoted to programs and strategies to reduce nonpoint pollution in the urban environment. Stormwater runoff from city streets, parking lots, rooftops, over fertilized yards, and construction sites drains into the city storm drain system and into the nearest waterway with no treatment. Speakers from the Department of Health and Hospitals, BTNEP, Jefferson Parish, New Orleans Green Project, and The Sanctuary explained programs they have designed to lessen the impacts of urban nonpoint pollution. Possibly the most effective method of preventing nonpoint pollution is through education and outreach by encouraging

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people to voluntarily practice responsible environmental stewardship. The last session of the day featured outreach and education methods currently being implemented. The first day of the symposium ended with an energetic presentation from **The Advocate's** environmental reporter Mike Dunne on "How to Develop an Effective Media Campaign".

The second day of the symposium focused on nonpoint pollution resulting from hydromodification, marinas, and agriculture. Barton Rogers, USACOE spoke about the habitat restoration efforts on the Amite and Comite rivers. James Little, DEQ, explained the 401 water quality certification process and Dr. William Kelso talked about streamside management zones. Dr. Brian Leblanc, LCES, gave a historical view of nonpoint pollution control at marinas and David Keyser, Marina and Boatyard Association of Louisiana, explained the best management practices currently implemented at marinas in the Lake Ponchartrain Basin area.

DNR Secretary Jack Caldwell was the special guest speaker. Caldwell talked about the importance of Local Coastal Programs and working with all coastal parishes to develop programs. He addressed the group on the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) federal legislation that could mean over $300 million annually for natural resource and wildlife protection, including coastal impact assistance in Louisiana.

The final session of the symposium focused on nonpoint pollution control in the agricultural industry. Brad Spicer, LDAF Assistant. Commissioner, gave an overview of the LDAF's efforts to prevent nonpoint pollution. Ron Marcantel, NRCS, explained the various farm assistance programs provided by NRCS, and Herman Slade, TriCreek Dairy gave a very interesting presentation about the best management practices that he implements on his dairy farm.

DuCote stated that, "The speakers deserve a big 'Thank You' for taking the time to share their stories and for working so hard to clean up Louisiana's waterways so that future generations will be able to enjoy this valuable resource without endangering their health."

To find out more about what you can do to help control nonpoint source pollution and contribute to a healthier, happier environment or to find out more about the symposium, please contact the Interagency Affairs Program at 1-800-267-4019 or visit our website at **http://www.dnr.state.la.us/crm/coastmgt/interagencyaff/index.asp**.

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Americans Believe Environmental Movement A Success

This year's 30th anniversary of Earth Day was celebrated April 22, 2000. According to results from an Earth Day 2000 Gallup Poll report, Americans have a positive view of the environmental movement now as it turns 30. The movement has always enjoyed considerable public support, particularly for its key goal of environmental protection. Three-fourths of Americans (76%) rate the environmental movement as having had either "a great deal" or "a moderate amount" of success over the years.

Learn more about what Americans said in the report by visiting:
www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr000418.asp

Lafourche CZM Office Now Has Permit Information Center

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources' Coastal Management Division has recently opened a Permit Information Center in Lafourche Parish. The center is located in the Lafourche Parish Coastal Management office at the Ward 10 Annex Bldg., 101 West 112th St., Cut Off, La.

Local coastal management programs give parish governments the authority to issue permits for projects of local concern in the state's coastal zone. According to DNR Coastal Zone Program Manager Greg DuCote, "Lafourche is one of eight parishes with an approved local program, and is now the first to provide this 'one-stop shop' for permitting assistance and information."

The center allows prospective applicants to meet with permitting experts for assistance in finding out what permits are needed and to help prepare applications by computer. Permits are required for such projects as dredge and fill, and the construction of piers, bulkheads and boat slips.

To reach the permit information center by phone, call 504-632-4666. For additional information about coastal zone permitting or the new center, contact Jon Truxillo, DNR Coastal Resources Management Specialist, P.O. Box 44487, Baton Rouge, La. 70804 toll-free 1-800-267-4019.

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Loran Coordinates Reported for Underwater Obstructions

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that 18 claims were received during the period April 1 - April 30, 2000. There were 15 claims paid and three claims denied.

Loran Coordinates of reported underwater obstructions are:

TD1 (X)	TD2 (Y)	PARISH
26644	46979	Cameron
26731	46980	Cameron
26756	46979	Cameron
27105	46943	Vermilion
27922	46832	Terrebonne

A list of claimants and amounts paid, can be obtained from Verlie Wims, Administrator, Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund, P.O. Box 94396, Baton Rouge, LA 70804 or call (225)342-0122.

Beginning July 1, 2000, all claims submitted to the Fund must include a location. Publication of these locations will continue in **LOUISIANA COASTLINES**.

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State of Louisiana

M.J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.
GOVERNOR

JACK C. CALDWELL
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

April 13, 2000

TO: Commercial Fishermen of Louisiana

RE: Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund (FGCF)
Underwater Obstruction Removal Program

The Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund reimburses commercial fishermen for lost or damaged vessels due to an underwater obstruction. The fund is established for Louisiana territorial waters which overlie state-owned water bottoms located in the Louisiana Coastal Zone.

The State Legislature passed Act 666 of 1997 for the transfer of funds from Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund to the Underwater Obstruction Removal Program. The intent of this transfer is to complement the existing Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund program by identifying the hang, marking the location, and removing the obstruction from the coastal waters. In order for the programs to operate effectively, we must all work together and accurately report the location of all known obstructions.

Therefore, effective July 1, 2000, all claims filed with Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund must include a Global Positioning System (GPS) reading or a Loran-C on all claims so that the hangs can be located. If your vessel is not equipped to report a GPS reading or a Loran-C reading, you must locate the obstruction on a National Ocean Survey Chart (which gives distance and direction of fixed aids to navigation and land marks such as radio towers, jetty lights, etc.) and submit a copy with your claim form when filing with Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund.

We also remind you that ***original letterhead estimates or receipts for costs are required to support your claim. Also, new rules in accordance with Act 599 of 1999 will not allow claims in areas where clean-up by the state's removal program has occurred.***

Information on known hangs is published in the State Register in the Potpourri Section, the Marine Agent's Newsletter, and the Louisiana Coastlines published by DNR's Coastal Management division. You may call (225) 342-0122 with any questions relating to Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund.

Information about the Underwater Obstruction Removal Program may be obtained from Program Manager Bruce Ballard at (225) 342-6293.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely yours,

Jack C. Caldwell

P.O. BOX 94396 • BATON ROUGE, LA 70804-9396 • 625 N. 4TH STREET • 13TH FLOOR • BATON ROUGE, LA 70802
PHONE (225) 342-4503 • FAX (225) 342-5861 • WEB http://www.dnr.state.la.us
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Baton Rouge Earth Day Project a Big Win for Area High School Team

Coastal specialists from LSU and the Department of Natural Resources teamed with Capitol High School students this Earth Day 2000 for a unique project on coastal wetland ecology. As a result, the students, mentors, biologists, and Earth Day festival participants all reaped benefits from this exciting educational venture.

The Baton Rouge Earth Day Wetlands Education Project, led by Dr. Mark Ford, research professor at LSU's Earth Ecology Institute and DNR Coastal Restoration biologists Bryan Piazza and Bren Haase, not only provided these special Capitol High juniors and seniors instruction in coastal ecology but gave them practical experience in the field. The students spent about three months on the activity which was their community service project for the National Honor Society. Their instructors said the students proved to be good researchers, scientists, and community activists all rolled together, plus had fun on the side!

EXPERIMENTING ON WETLANDS

The students conducted experimental research using simulated wetland mesocosms and designed posters to present their conclusions at the Earth Day celebration held on April 16th in downtown Baton Rouge. Instructors took the group to Southeastern Louisiana University's Biological Field Station at Turtle Cove on the northwest shore of Lake Pontchartrain, where the students had a firsthand look at the wetlands environment to prepare for their project. The students planted wetland vegetation in tanks, and tested the effect of salt water intrusion, flooding, intensive herbivory and wetland filling on the vegetation. Each test impacted the wetlands differently as learned in several experiments.

LEARNING ABOUT NON-POINT POLLUTION

DNR Coastal Management Specialist Melanie Tarver was also involved in the project. She taught two lessons on nonpoint pollution for the project. Tarver explained to her students, "Nonpoint pollution occurs when rainfall or snowmelt carries contaminants from many diffuse sources such as lawns, parking lots, rooftops, farmlands, and highways to nearby waterways. Point source pollution originates from a known source such as the wastewater being discharged from a factory pipe and is easier to measure and identify." She used the EnviroScape, a three-dimensional landscape model, to give students a visual introduction of nonpoint pollution. Using cocoa (dirt), red Kool-aid (pesticides), green Kool-aid (fertilizers), and a mixture of cocoa and water (oil and sludge) on the landscape model, Tarver demonstrated how potential pollutants can run-off during a rainstorm. The students learned that each time it rains, items such as cigarette butts, litter, pet waste, motor oil, lawn chemicals, dirt from construction sites, and a myriad of pollutants can reach nearby waterways through storm drains. "Surprisingly, many people do not realize that storm drains are routed directly to nearby streams, rivers, and lakes without any

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treatment, or that nonpoint pollution is the largest threat to waterways today," Tarver emphasized to her class.

The second part of the nonpoint pollution segment included a lesson about community action, citizenship, and ***storm drain marking.*** Tarver asked students to place storm drain markers around their neighborhood. The students placed four-inch polyurethene markers with the message "**No Dumping, Drains to Lake"** next to over 30 storm drains around the Capitol Lake area of town. "They also promised to remind their friends and relatives of the harmful effects that dumping trash out of the car window or disposing of used oil down a storm drain can have on nearby waterways. This project reinforced the idea that students can have fun while learning to make a difference in their community and the environment around them," Tarver said.

MAKINGA DIFFERENCE

In addition to being informative and fun, two students participating in the project were awarded internships from LSU's Civil and Environmental Engineering and Biochemical Engineering departments. Patrick Griffin and Maranda Row were selected for the intern program. All of the students gained knowledge on careers in the environmental science fields and about colleges and scholarships available as they continue their education. The teachers, on the other hand, garnered what they relish most—accomplished pupils! Pictures of the Capitol High School students in full-action and background information about the project can be found at **http://lamer.lsu.edu/projects/lablues/index.htm**.

(Special thanks to Margaret Frey of the Cooperative Extension Service for the use of the EnviroScape model and to Andrew Barron of the state's DEQ for supplying storm drain markers for the students.)

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